



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
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Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Emma Best
MuckRock News
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Re: Appeal Nos. DOJ-AP-2019-002655¹
Request Nos. 1422572-000²
MWH:EMY:JNW:PJA:RNB

VIA: Email

Dear Emma Best:

You appealed from the actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act requests for access to records concerning various dark net markets and websites. I note that your appeals concern the FBI's refusal to confirm or deny the existence of requested records. Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations between December 22, 2018, and January 25, 2019, which resulted in a delay in responding to your appeal.

After carefully considering your appeals, I am affirming the FBI's actions on your requests. The FOIA provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. The FBI properly refused to confirm or deny the existence of any records responsive to your requests because the existence of such records is protected from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A), and it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of this information would harm the interests protected by this provision. This provision concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings.

Additionally, the FBI properly refused to confirm or deny the existence of any records responsive to your requests because the existence of such records is protected from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E), and it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of this information would harm the interests protected by this provision. This provision concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

¹ In addition to DOJ-AP-2019-002655, this letter serves as a response to the series of appeal numbers listed in the attached spreadsheet.

² In addition to Request No. 1422572-000, this letter serves as a response to the series of request numbers listed in the attached spreadsheet.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of these matters. Your appeals were assigned to attorneys with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeals, your underlying requests, and the actions of the FBI in response to your requests.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeals, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeals, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

3/21/2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.H. - M".

Matthew Hurd, Associate Chief, for
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD

Enclosure

| Appeal number | Request number | Subject of Request |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| DOJ-AP-2019-002655 | 1422572-000 | Cloud-Nine |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002656 | 1422574-000 | Area51 |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002657 | 1422576-000 | Cantina |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002658 | 1422577-000 | DarkBay |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002659 | 1422585-000 | Agape |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002660 | 1422592-000 | Blue Sky |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002661 | 1422595-000 | GreyRoad |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002662 | 1422599-000 | Anarchia |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002663 | 1422601-000 | Black Goblin Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002664 | 1422602-000 | Diabolus/SR3 |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002665 | 1422619-000 | Doge Road |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002666 | 1422620-000 | East India Company |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002667 | 1422631-000 | Abraxas |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002668 | 1422632-000 | Andromeda |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002669 | 1422636-000 | 1776 |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002670 | 1422643-000 | BlackMarket Reloaded |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002671 | 1422648-000 | AlphaBay |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002672 | 1422651-000 | Darknet Heroes League |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002673 | 1422653-000 | Hansa |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002674 | 1422656-000 | Evolution |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002675 | 1422657-000 | Drugslist |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002696 | 1422658-000 | Deepbay |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002697 | 1422665-000 | Armory Vendor Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002698 | 1422668-000 | Breaking Bad |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002699 | 1422669-000 | Alpaca Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002700 | 1422671-000 | Black Services Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002701 | 1422672-000 | Free Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002702 | 1422676-000 | Dream Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002703 | 1422699-000 | BlackBank Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002704 | 1422700-000 | Agora |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002705 | 1422709-000 | Budster |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002706 | 1422710-000 | Atlantis |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002707 | 1422712-000 | FloMarket |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002708 | 1422717-000 | FreeBay |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002709 | 1422718-000 | EXXTACY |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002710 | 1422719-000 | Cannabis Road |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002711 | 1422720-000 | BlackBox Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002712 | 1422723-000 | Darknet Nation |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002713 | 1422726-000 | Freedom Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002714 | 1422729-000 | BuyltNow |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| DOJ-AP-2019-002715 | 1422732-000 | Amazon Dark |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002717 | 1422734-000 | Crypto Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002718 | 1424582-000 | Cryptocomb |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002720 | 1425660-000 | TorMarket |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002722 | 1425661-000 | Nucleus Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002723 | 1425662-000 | Mr Nice Guy |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002724 | 1425663-000 | TorBazaar |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002725 | 1425664-000 | Silk Street |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002727 | 1425668-000 | Kiss |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002729 | 1425671-000 | TOM |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002730 | 1425675-000 | Onionshop |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002733 | 1425676-000 | Tortuga |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002735 | 1425684-000 | Pandora |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002737 | 1425689-000 | Hydra |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002738 | 1425690-000 | Horizon Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002739 | 1425697-000 | Topix 2 |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002740 | 1425698-000 | Outlaw Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002741 | 1425699-000 | White Rabbit |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002742 | 1425704-000 | Tochka |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002744 | 1425705-000 | Project Black Flag |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002745 | 1425706-000 | Sanitarium Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002746 | 1425712-000 | Pigeon Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002747 | 1425717-000 | Poseidon |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002749 | 1425718-000 | Ironclad |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002750 | 1425720-000 | Panacea |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002751 | 1425724-000 | Middle Earth Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002752 | 1425728-000 | Zanzibar Spice |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002753 | 1425734-000 | Pirate Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002754 | 1425737-000 | Tornado |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002755 | 1425739-000 | Red Sun Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002756 | 1425754-000 | Underground Market |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002757 | 1425757-000 | The Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002759 | 1425760-000 | Simply Bear |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002760 | 1425763-000 | TheRealDeal |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002761 | 1425765-000 | Absolem |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002762 | 1425766-000 | Utopia |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002763 | 1425770-000 | TorBay |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002764 | 1425771-000 | Silk Road |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002765 | 1425772-000 | Sheep Marketplace |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002766 | 1425776-000 | TorEscrow |
| DOJ-AP-2019-002767 | 1425777-000 | Oxygen |